

The Best & Brightest

A salute to Michigan high school seniors who excel in and out of class



DREW CLAYBORN
Walled Lake Central
High School,
Commerce Township



KACIE GEE
Sparta High School,
Sparta



JASMINE JONES
Everett High School,
Lansing



HOANG CAO NGUYEN
East Kentwood High
School, Kentwood

AGAINST ALL ODDS



NICHOLAS GAJDIK
Stoney Creek High School,
Rochester Hills



COLLEEN JACOBY
Cranbrook Kingswood
Upper School, Bloomfield
Hills



LAUREN BARTLING
Charlevoix High School,
Charlevoix



ABBIE GALLOWAY
Pickford High School,
Pickford

ATHLETICS

HEALTH



MELANIE LANGA
Community High School,
Ann Arbor



RACHEL PREMACK
Grosse Pointe North High
School, Grosse Pointe
Woods



JULIA BYERS
Avondale High School,
Auburn Hills



YICHUAN WANG
Herbert Henry Dow High
School, Midland

JOURNALISM

LANGUAGE ARTS



DAVID LU
Detroit Country Day
School, Beverly Hills



ROLLAND HE
Troy High School, Troy



MICHAEL CROSS
Dakota High School,
Macomb Township



ABIGAIL ELDER
Cranbrook Kingswood
Upper School, Bloomfield
Hills

MATHEMATICS

PERFORMING ARTS



**BRITTANY
LEONARD**
Lakeland High School,
White Lake



ETHAN LI
Detroit Country Day
School, Beverly Hills



MARINA BORRI
Harrison High School,
Farmington Hills



PAIGE MOORE
Birmingham Seaholm High
School, Birmingham

SCIENCE

VISUAL ARTS



TYLER ERSKINE
Swan Valley High School,
Saginaw



MERCEDES NELSON
Grand Traverse Academy,
Traverse City



ANGELICE FLOYD
Lewis Cass Technical High
School, Detroit



ALEC RAMSAY-SMITH
Harrison High School,
Farmington Hills

VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL

WORLD STUDIES

AGAINST ALL ODDS

JASMINE JONES

Everett High School, Lansing
Grade-point average: 3.0
Parents: Ken and Tammy Jones
College: Art Institute of Michigan
Major: Fashion marketing and merchandising
Career plans: To own and operate own store
Most influential teachers: Diane Bennett and Pam Collins
Achievements:
 ■ Accepted into the Arts Institute of Michigan
 ■ Gold medal through Family Career Center Leaders of America
 ■ Viking of the Month (November 2011)
 ■ National Technical Honor Society
 ■ Honor roll

■ Volunteers of America, Cavanaugh Elementary School
 ■ Kandon Elementary School, Rivers of Life basketball volunteer
 ■ The Detroit News/CATCH Outstanding High School Graduate scholarship winner
 ■ Secretary of senior class (2012)
 ■ Passion for Fashion scholarship
 ■ Imagine America scholarship
 ■ Rotary scholarship
 ■ Co-captain, varsity volleyball team
 ■ District volleyball champions (2011)
 ■ The Viking Gives Back Club co-founder
Sponsored by: Richard & Jane Manooogian Foundation



DREW CLAYBORN

Walled Lake Central High School, Commerce Township
Grade-point average: 3.5
Parent: LeDon Clayborn
College: University of Michigan
Major: Informatics
Career plans: Informatics
Most influential teacher: David Rogers
Achievements:
 ■ Flight 1 state marching band champions (2010, 2011)
 ■ Marching band captain
 ■ 31 ACT – math; 25 overall after injury
 ■ Oakland County Education Excellence Award
 ■ Hospital volunteer
 ■ Spinal cord video game advisory board member
 ■ Mastering assistive technology after becoming a quadriplegic
 ■ Winner of The Detroit News/CATCH scholarship program
Sponsored by: Richard & Jane Manooogian Foundation



HOANG CAO NGUYEN

East Kentwood High School, Kentwood
Grade-point average: 4.25
Parents: Ba Nguyen and Hien Cao
College: Michigan State University
Major: Chemical engineering
Career plans: Engineer, medical
Most influential teachers: Laura Sloma and Barbara Montgomery
Achievements:
 ■ Came to America one year ago with no English
 ■ Scored a 5 on AP calculus BC
 ■ Scored 36 on ACT math and 800 on SAT math level II
 ■ Currently earning an A on AP physics B and AP chemistry
 ■ Kent County Education Association ESL scholarship award
 ■ Kentwood Rotary Club – student of the month
 ■ Volunteer at local library
 ■ Help chemistry teacher prepare labs for classes
Sponsored by: Richard & Jane Manooogian Foundation



KACIE GEE

Sparta High School, Sparta
Grade-point average: 3.97
Parents: Penny Ashley and Ric Gee
College: Aquinas
Major: Chemistry
Career plans: Neonatologist
Most influential teacher: Donna Jones
Achievements:
 ■ Acceptance into Aquinas Insignis honors program
 ■ Certified nursing assistant
 ■ National Honor Society
 ■ Sparta Relay for Life spokeswoman
 ■ National Honor Society team captain of Relay for Life
 ■ Sparta ambassador

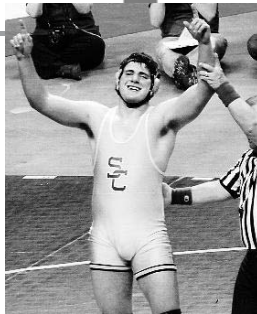
■ Tutor
 ■ IWCA tribute student recipient
 ■ Member of Kent Career Technical Center's principal leadership team
 ■ Kent County Education Association committee choice award
 ■ Kent Intermediate Education Association awards (2)
 ■ Honor Roll for seven going on eight consecutive years
 ■ Academics award (three consecutive years)
 ■ Aquinas Academic Leadership Scholarship
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ATHLETICS

NICHOLAS GAJZKIC

Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills
Grade-point average: 4.0
Parents: Mike and Stephanie Gajzicki
College: Harvard
Major: Economics
Career plans: Law and politics
Most influential teachers: Mark Dillon and Jeff Smart
Achievements:
 ■ Valedictorian
 ■ 2012 Division I, 285 pounds wrestling state champion, 46-0 senior record
 ■ Intermat High School All-American, wrestling
 ■ Academic all-state, football and wrestling
 ■ 2011 Division I, 215 pounds wrestling state runner-up; 2010 Division I, 215 pounds, seventh place
 ■ OAA league champion (three times), district champion (three times), regional champion (twice)
 ■ 2011 Oakland City champion, 2010 runner-up, 2009 seventh place
 ■ All Oakland County, first team (twice)
 ■ MVP (three times), Cougar Award – wrestling, Iron Man Award – football
 ■ Seven varsity letters: four wrestling, three football
 ■ Varsity captain – wrestling (2010-12), football (2011)
 ■ OAA Scholar Athlete (eight times).



■ National Honor Society (10th and 12th grades)
 ■ Freshman mentor (11th and 12th grades)
 ■ Will wrestle for Harvard
Sponsored by: Arrow Strategies

COLLEEN JACOBY

Crantbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills
Grade-point average: 4.2
Parents: Marge and Gary Jacoby
College: Gustavus Adolphus College
Major: History
Career plans: Attend law school after college
Most influential teacher: Gail Chun
Achievements:
 ■ Miss Hockey (2011)
 ■ Academic All-American (2011)
 ■ Ice hockey, first team all-state (2010, 2011, 2012)
 ■ Field hockey, first team all-state (2010, 2011)
 ■ Lacrosse, first team all-state (2011)
 ■ Resident adviser – Kingswood dorms (2012)
 ■ Field hockey captain (2011)
 ■ Ice hockey captain (2011-12)
 ■ Most Valuable Goalie – ice hockey (2010, 2011, 2012), Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League
 ■ Crane Scholar (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)
 ■ 12-letter varsity athlete – field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse
Sponsored by: Arrow Strategies



■ Academic all-state ice hockey (2012)
 ■ MVP field hockey (2011), ice hockey (2010, 2011)
 ■ All-Catholic League field hockey (2010, 2011, 2012)
 ■ All-Catholic League lacrosse (2010, 2011)
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JUDGES

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Gail Fowler, academic success coach, Westwood New Tech High School
Kimberly Sams-Smith, freelance journalist

ATHLETICS

Ruben Luna, associate sports editor, The Detroit News

Tom Markowski, high school sports writer, The Detroit News

HEALTH

Dave Brown, health and physical education teacher, Oxford High School
Kathryn Goetz, Michigan Department of Education

JOURNALISM

Walter Middlebrook, assistant managing editor-metro, The Detroit News

LANGUAGE ARTS

Mary M. Hall-Rayford, teacher, Wayne State University, Michigan Council of Teachers of English, executive committee

MATHEMATICS

Marianne Stock, mathematics consultant,

Macomb Intermediate School District

PERFORMING ARTS

Paul Lichau, executive director, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association

SCIENCE

Michael Klein, president, Michigan Science Teachers Association

LaMoine Motz, director, Oakland Science/Mathematics Center

Jim Munson, science education professor, Oakland University

VISUAL ARTS

Richard Epps, presentation editor, The Detroit News

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL

Eileen Conner, work-based coordinator, Calhoun Area Career Center

Mary Jane Opic, outreach specialist (marketing/PR), Calhoun Area Career Center

WORLD STUDIES

David Helen, social studies consultant, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency

HOW WE PICK THE GRADUATES

For more than a quarter-century, we have been recognizing Michigan's best and brightest high school students through the Outstanding Graduates program. It's a task that never gets old.

With our partner, CATCH – Sparky Anderson's Charity for Children – we are proud to tell the stories of these remarkable young people. And we are also encouraged that our future is in such good hands.

The top seniors were chosen from a field of outstanding nominees. Public and private high schools in Michigan were invited to nominate students in each of 11 categories. Students were selected on the basis of grades, test scores, honors, community involvement and a demonstrated ability in one of the academic areas. In a special category called "Against All Odds," students were recognized for succeeding despite a physical hardship or special, personal or family challenges.

Final selections were made by panels of judges that included teachers, counselors and other academic specialists.

The judges told us of their admiration for the many nominees and the difficulty in narrowing their choices.

Our thanks go to all of the principals, counselors and teachers who took time to nominate these students. Thanks also go to the judges who spent many hours selecting the finalists.

This is the 27th class of outstanding high school graduates honored by The News. Many of our early nominees are now well-established in successful careers and raising children that may well be honored themselves someday soon. We salute their special achievements and extend congratulations to all of Michigan's graduating seniors in the class of 2012.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Wolman
Editor and Publisher

HEALTH

LAUREN BARTLING

Charlevoix High School, Charlevoix
Grade-point average: 3.99
Parents: Kris and Amy Bartling
College: Grand Valley State University

Major: Physician assistant studies (Bachelor's of Allied Health)
Career plans: Physician assistant, missionary work
Most influential teacher: Tom Schultz

Achievements:
 ■ Miss Charlevoix Venetian Queen (2011)
 ■ Health Occupations Students of America (1st place)
 ■ Michigan Medical Photography, Region 7 and state champion
 ■ National Honor Society
 ■ Grand Valley Awards of Distinction scholarship



■ Class president (three years)
 ■ Academic all-conference, Lake Michigan Conference
 ■ Varsity letters in cross-country, basketball and soccer

Sponsored by: The Detroit News

ABBIE GALLOWAY

Pickford High School, Pickford
Grade-point average: 4.0
Parents: Gary and Joanne Galloway
College: Brown University

Major: Human biology
Career plans: Doctor (specialist)
Achievements:
 ■ Family, Career and Community Leaders of America state president (2010-12)

■ Family Career Center Leaders of America, National Leadership Conference STAR events qualifier (two years)

■ Race Into Health program coordinator (2010)

■ Kids Against Hunger food-packaging event coordinator (2011)

■ Noah's Ark 4-H Club member (12 years)

■ 4.0 Honor roll

■ Class valedictorian

■ Quiz Bowl team member



■ Varsity softball
 ■ Class officer
 ■ Pickford High School's National Honor Society chapter president
 ■ Eastern Upper Peninsula Principal Awards (invited student 2012)
 ■ Student council member
Sponsored by: Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

JOURNALISM

MELANIE LANGA

Community High School, Ann Arbor
Grade-point average: 4.0
Parents: Ken and Lucy Langa
College: Stanford University

Major: International relations
Career plans: Undecided
Most influential teachers: Tracy Anderson and Courtney Kiley

Achievements:
 ■ Michigan Interscholastic Press Association All-State Journalism Staff (2012)

■ Co-editor-in-chief of the Communicator Web (2010-12)
 ■ Winner of 15 Michigan Interscholastic Press Association individual awards

■ Top scholar – annarbor.com

■ VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest winner, first place local, second place regional (2011)

■ Harold Eastman Outstanding Youth Award (2011)

■ National Honor Society (2010-2012)

■ One Pause Poetry Contest, third



place (2012)
 ■ Varsity tennis team co-captain (2011-12)
 ■ Four-year varsity letter winner
 ■ National Latin Exam – magna cum laude (2010), cum laude (2011)

Sponsored by: The Detroit News

RACHEL PREMACK

Grosse Pointe North High School, Grosse Pointe Woods
Grade-point average: 3.96
Parents: Mary Wood and Dr. Timothy Premack

College: University of Michigan

Major: History

Career plans: Journalism

Most influential teacher: Andrew Taylor

Achievements:

■ Deputy editor, North Points (2009-12)

■ Silver Key for excellence in writing – the Scholastic Art Writing Awards (2012)

■ Certificate of Merit in personal opinion, Columbia University Gold Circle Awards (2012)

■ Four Michigan Interscholastic Press Association awards (2010-12)

■ Young Women for Change, president (2009-12)

■ French Society, founder/president



(2009-12)
 ■ Philosophy Club, founder/president (2009-12)
 ■ SOAR tutoring (2009-12)
 ■ Best affirmative speech, Wayne State Summer Argumentation Institute (2010)
 ■ Advanced Placement Scholar With Distinction
Sponsored by: Detroit Media Partnership

LANGUAGE ARTS

JULIA BYERS

Avondale High School, Auburn Hills

Grade-point average: 3.95

Parents: Charlie and Lynn Byers

College: University of Michigan
Major: Creative writing and literature

Career plans: Novelist

Most influential teachers: Jodi Allan and Edmond Guay

Achievements:

■ Attended Write On Conference (2011), Writer's Digest Conference (2011, 2012)

■ Won Fringes Society Contest with Darren Shan on Figment-.com

■ Won Enemy Contest with L.A. Weatherly on Figment.com

■ Michigan Future Problem Solvers scenario writing competition, second place (2012)

■ National Novel Writing Month champion (4 times)

■ Published in Teen Ink magazine

■ Chapter One Young Writers Conference founder

■ National Honor Society member



■ Avondale Theatre Company student board member
 ■ Recipient of several Silver Keys and honorable mentions from Scholastic Art and Writing Awards
 ■ Appeared in the independent film "Myth of the American Sleepover"
 ■ Teen Ink student advisory board member
 ■ Finalist in Seventeen Magazine fiction contest (2011-12)
 ■ Graduating magna cum laude
 ■ Michigan Future Problem Solvers team booklet writing competition, fourth place (2011)

Sponsored by: Domino's Pizza

YICHUAN WANG

Herbert Henry Dow High School, Midland

Grade-point average: 4.74

Parents: Chen Wang and Chunlin Gao

College: University of Michigan
Major: Mathematics and economics

Career plans: Economics professor

Most influential teacher: Amy Bushey

Achievements:

■ Varsity debate state semifinalist (2012); champion (2011)

■ Junior varsity debate state champion (2010)

■ Novice debate state champion (2009)

■ Overall state debate champion Ziegelmüller Award (three times)

■ Policy debate captain

■ Forensics extemporaneous speaking, state finalist

■ Student Union treasurer

■ Varsity swim

■ Science Olympiad regional winner



– chemistry lab, protein modeling, thermodynamics
 ■ United States presidential scholar
 ■ National Merit Scholar finalist
 ■ United States National Chemistry Olympiad Top 50
 ■ American International Mathematics Examination Two True qualifier
 ■ Michigan Mathematics Prize competition Top 100 (three times)
 ■ National Honor Society

Sponsored by: Cambridge Consulting Group

MATHEMATICS

DAVID LU

Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills

Grade-point average: 3.9

Parents: Yi Lu and Xiaoyun Chen

College: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Major: Mathematics

Career plans: Financial analyst

Most influential teacher: Ross Arseneau

Achievements:

■ Intel Science Talent Search semifinalist (2011)

■ Siemens Competition, national fourth place (\$30,000 scholarship team award (2009))

■ Siemens Competition, regional finalist, regional semifinalist (2010-11)

■ Michigan Math Prize Competition, first place (2012), Bronze Medal (2007, 2009-11)

■ U.S. Physics Olympiad, national semifinalist (2011, 2012)

■ North America Computational Linguistics Olympiad, national final (2011)

■ U.S. Math Olympiad, invitee (2009-12)

■ American Regions Math League, Michigan all-star team member (2007-12)

■ ARML International math competition, 20th rank (2011)

■ Kettering University Mathematics Olympiad, first place (2011), third place (2009)

■ Lawrence Technological University Math Competition, first place (2010)

■ Co-author of publication Journal of Interconnection Networks, Vol. II (2010)

■ Michigan Math League competition, first place (2010, 2011)

■ American Scholastic Math Association contest, first place (2010-12)

Sponsored by: Fifth Third Bank



ROLLAND HE

Troy High School, Troy

Grade-point average: 4.29

Parents: Wendy Wu and Harry He

College: Stanford University

Major: Mathematics

Career plans: Undecided

Most influential teachers: Jonny Sobczynski and John Morrison

Achievements:

■ USA Mathematics Olympiad qualifier

■ American math competition (perfect score)

■ Highest scoring Michigan senior in the American math competition, 12B

■ Mu Alpha Theta National Log 1 contest, fourth place

■ Michigan Math Prize Competition part 1, top 10

■ Michigan Math League, second place

■ Co-wrote scientific research paper published in Congressus Numerantium

■ Presented research at an international math conference

■ State Science Olympiad, gold medalist

■ Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit, first-place team

■ National AP scholar

■ National Merit Scholar finalist

■ Michigan High School Team Chess Championships, silver medalist

■ World Piano Competition, silver medalist

■ Invited to play piano at Carnegie Hall

Sponsored by: Talmer Bank & Trust



PERFORMING ARTS

MICHAEL CROSS

Dakota High School, Macomb Twp.

Grade-point average: 4.071

Parents: Katie and Stan Cross

College: Michigan State University Honors College

Major: Mathematics and chemistry

Career plans: Undecided

Most influential teacher: Risa Hsu

Achievements:

■ Marching band section leader

■ Science Olympiad captain – junior and senior years

■ National Honor Society trustee

■ Quiz Bowl member

■ All-Academic Class-A award

■ Participated in the 2010 Michigan Youth Arts Festival, nominated in 2012

■ Participated in all-state band, 2012

■ Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, solo and ensemble – First Division rating for tuba solo (four years) and bass ensembles (three years)

■ 19 medals in Science Olympiad competitions

■ Participated in jazz band, pit band, tuba-euphonium classes

■ AP scholar

Sponsored by: Quicken Loans

principal violist, Michigan Youth Arts Festival (2011)

■ Competition winner – orchestra soloist with Birmingham-Bloomfield, Dearborn and Marquette symphony orchestras

■ Concerto soloist, Michigan Youth Arts Festival, 2011; finalist for soloist, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association solo competition (2010)

■ Perlman Music Program (2008-12), directed by Itzhak Perlman, Toby Perlman, for strings (eight weeks)

■ Birmingham Musicale, the Jean Himmeyer String Award, first place

■ Scholarship recipient from Royal Oak Musicale and Tuesday Musicale (second place voice, strings, 2012)

■ Cranbrook Quartet – won Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings high school competition; MSBOA String Quartet, 2012 Michigan Youth Arts

■ National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest, first place (2003); National PTA Reflections Contest composition (2006)

■ MSBOA state solo and ensemble scores 100 (2012 Proficiency 3, 2011 Proficiency 2), 97 (2010 Proficiency 1), A+ (2009)

■ Co-president Cranbrook Chamber Music Community Service Club (co-founder) and Cranbrook Gold Key Club

■ Outstanding Junior Award, Cranbrook school, selected by faculty (2011)

■ Slotkin Scholar, Cranbrook school (2008-12) for demonstrating strong academic achievement and exceptional musical ability

Sponsored by: NBS Commercial Interiors



ABIGAIL ELDER

Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills

Grade-point average: 4.26

Parents: Jack and Judith Elder

College: Yale University

Major: Music

Career plans: Violist – playing in orchestra and teaching at a university/music conservatory

Most influential teacher: Caroline Coadie (violin teacher)

Achievements:

■ American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition, first place; viola, junior division, tie (2011)

■ National Federation of Music Clubs Wendell Irish Viola Award (U.S. northeastern region, 2009)

■ Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic (youth) Orchestra (2008-12); principal violist (2010-12); chamber program

■ Michigan state honors orchestra,

■ Philosophy Club, founder/president (2009-12)

■ SOAR tutoring (2009-12)

■ Best affirmative speech, Wayne State Summer Argumentation Institute (2010)

■ Advanced Placement Scholar With Distinction

Sponsored by: Detroit Media Partnership

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■ Advanced Placement Scholar With Distinction

■ Young Women for Change, president (2009-12)

■ French Society, founder/president

■ Philosophy Club, founder/president (2009-12)

■ SOAR tutoring (2009-12)

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Sponsored by: Detroit Media Partnership

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RUNNERS UP

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Nickolas Adamowicz, Northville High School, Northville
Gabriela Diaz, Holland High School, Holland
Elaine Kalahar, Swartz Creek High School, Swartz Creek
Taylor Morgan, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw
Colin Renssch, Mattawan High School, Mattawan
Leah Richter, Lutheran High School Westland, Westland
Herbert Slate, Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids
Caitlin Rose Taylor, Western International High School, Detroit

ATHLETICS

Abigale Belcrest, University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Woods
Kelly Frazier, Birmingham Seaholm High School, Birmingham
Zac Leimbach, Walled Lake Central High School, Walled Lake
Garret Zuk, Lakeland High School, White Lake

HEALTH

Julian Hornback, Allegan High School, Allegan
Ella Rose Pendi, Grosse Pointe South High School, Grosse Pointe Farms
Abigail Seeber, Swan Valley High School, Saginaw
Jillian Wray, Saranac High School, Saranac

JOURNALISM

Kate Gardner, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills
Julie Kortberg, Community High School, Ann Arbor
Danielle Raykhishteyn, Troy High School, Troy
Khushali V. Shah, Detroit Country Day School, Bloomfield Hills

LANGUAGE ARTS

Charlotte Mazurek, Sparta High School, Sparta
Benjamin Moss, Grosse Pointe South High School, Grosse Pointe Farms
Jessica Mudge, Winston Churchill High School, Livonia
Lindsey Scullen, Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills

MATHEMATICS

Kathryn L. Jarvis, Winston Churchill High School, Livonia
Deepti Mahajan, International Academy, Bloomfield Hills
Taylor Neely, Dexter High School, Dexter

Elizabeth Anne Sigworth, Traverse City Central High School, Traverse City

PERFORMING ARTS

Joseph Langstreet, Hastings High School, Hastings
Efrain Patrick Segarra, Fenton High School, Fenton
Daniel Tzou, Herbert Henry Dow High School, Midland
Corrine Wallace, Utica Academy for International Studies, Sterling Heights

SCIENCE

Sidu Jena, International Academy, Bloomfield Hills
Janice Murray, Crestwood High School, Dearborn Heights
Eberechi Ogbuaku, John Glenn High School, Westland
Laura Osauer, Dakota High School, Macomb

VISUAL ARTS

Lindsey DeRoche, Sacred Heart Academy, Mount Pleasant
Alice Liu, International Academy, Bloomfield Hills
Kyle Misak, Mattawan High School, Mattawan
Ashley Navarre, Arenac Eastern High School, Twining

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL

Jenna Fedewa, Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills
Jonathan Robert Robbins, St. Clair County Technical Education Center, Marysville
Jessica L. Weaver, Albion High School, Albion

Callie Whiteman, Herbert Henry Dow High School, Midland

WORLD STUDIES

Alexandra Farrand, Marian High School, Bloomfield Hills
Katarina Goitz, University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Woods
Rohan Tangri, Troy High School, Troy
Hanan Yahya, Universal Academy, Detroit

SCIENCE

BRITTANY LEONARD

Lakeland High School, White Lake
Grade-point average: 4.223
Parents: Ann and Scott Leonard
College: Hope College
Major: Biology
Career plans: Biological researcher
Most influential teacher: Christian Lebutt
Achievements:
 ■ SWL Midame Curie Award recipient
 ■ AP scholar with distinction
 ■ Social studies Key Award
 ■ Class co-salutatorian
 ■ Board of Education Award finalist
 ■ Academic Excellence Award
 ■ Special congressional recognition
 ■ KLAA scholar athletic, volleyball
 ■ Academic All-State, volleyball
 ■ All-Region, volleyball



■ All-Area, volleyball
 ■ Toys for Tots volunteer
 ■ Milford Public Library summer reading program volunteer
Sponsored by: PVS Chemicals Inc.

ETHAN LI

Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills
Grade-point average: 4.0
Parents: Sherry Chiang and Chi Li
College: Stanford University
Major: Bioengineering
Career plans: Undecided
Most influential teacher: Julie Winter
Achievements:
 ■ Male Michigan Winner of the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement
 ■ USA Biology Olympiad semifinalist
 ■ National "You Be the Chemist" challenge, second place
 ■ Science Olympiad team co-captain and individual medalist at Oakland County and Michigan state competitions
 ■ Summer research intern in the Soft Living Matter Group at Princeton University, built an electromagnetic probe to investigate magnetic particles embedded in the cell structure
 ■ Member of school varsity team for Quiz Bowl, which won the State Championship High School Quiz Bowl Tournament in Class B
 ■ Awarded Quiz Bowl Class B All-State Class Honors as an individual
 ■ Bronze Award and Top 100 in the Michigan Math Prize competition
 ■ National AP scholar
 ■ National Merit Scholarship Award winner
 ■ National Latin Exam, gold medalist
 ■ Maureen O'Donnell Oxford Classical Dictionary Award of the National Latin Exam
 ■ Organized and taught introductory sessions for the "You Be the Chemist" challenge to local elementary school students
Sponsored by: Urban Science



VISUAL ARTS

MARINA BORRI

Harrison High School, Farmington Hills
Grade-point average: 3.9
Parents: Maria and Joe Borri
College: Michigan State University
Major: Packaging/ceramics
Career plans: Swim for MSU, double major in packaging and ceramics
Most influential teacher: Kimmi Dukes
Achievements:
 ■ Phi Beta Kappa
 ■ Graduating with high honors
 ■ Academic All-American
 ■ Best in Show, Harrison High School Senior Art Show, ceramics
 ■ Farmington Area Arts Commission, second place, 3-D art, ceramics
 ■ National Honor Society, Jack Buller chapter
 ■ All-American, 200 medley relay (10th grade)
 ■ All-State swimmer (grades 9-12)
 ■ Certified lifeguard



■ YMCA Great Lakes Zone champion in four events (five states) (11th grade)
 ■ YMCA Top 16 nationally (grades 8-12)
 ■ Class secretary (grades 9-12)
 ■ Harrison's of Hsu for Japan - led fundraising for tsunami victims
 ■ Ceramics club founder, officer
 ■ Varsity swim team (grades 9-12), captain (12th grade)
Sponsored by: Arrow Strategies

PAIGE MOORE

Birmingham Seaholm High School, Birmingham
Grade-point average: 4.05
Parents: Joan Trusty and Scott Moore
College: Michigan State University
Major: Psychology
Career plans: Psychologist
Most influential teacher: Thad Wilhelm
Achievements:
 ■ Scholastic Gold Key Award, photography portfolio (12th grade)
 ■ Selected as a 2012 diversity champion,



Race Relations and Diversity Task Force
 ■ President, Diversity Club (12th grade)
 ■ Co-captain, Birmingham United varsity skating team (12th grade)
 ■ Figure skating district champions (B Team, 11th grade), gold and bronze medals for spins (8th grade)
 ■ National Honor Society (11th and 12th grades)
 ■ Seaholm Maple Motion Junior Varsity Dance Team (9th and 10th grades), state champions (9th grade)
 ■ AFS Host Family (10th grade)
 ■ Gay Straight Alliance member
 ■ Borgo School of Dance for 15 years (advanced ballet, advanced tap, advanced jazz)
 ■ Figure Skating Club of Birmingham, skater for 15 years
 ■ Volunteer, Detroit Institute for Children, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Fair Trade Shop, South Oakland Shelter, First Baptist Church of Birmingham
Sponsored by: Arrow Strategies

TYLER ERSKINE

Swan Valley High School, Saginaw
Grade-point average: 4.0
Parents: Tom and Mary Erskine
College: Michigan State University
Major: Computer science and engineering or applied engineering
Career plans: Engineering or computer programming
Most influential teacher: Dawn Perez
Achievements:
 ■ Junior and senior class president (2010-12)
 ■ National Honor Society member (2011-12)
 ■ Business Professionals of America (regional, state and national competitor (2011 and 2012)
 ■ Principal's leadership nomination (2012)
 ■ Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society, first place, mechanical drawing (2011)
 ■ Michigan Department of Transportation mentoring award (2011)
 ■ Basketball team member (freshman, JV and varsity); varsity team captain (2012)
 ■ Football team member (freshman, JV and varsity)
 ■ Top Ten award, class rank No. 1 (2012)
 ■ MSU Donald Briggs Academic Award (2012)



■ Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraising (2012)
 ■ Outstanding Freshman and Sophomore Boy Award (2009, 2010)
Sponsored by: DTE Energy Foundation

MERCEDES NELSON

Grand Traverse Academy, Traverse City
Grade-point average: 3.88
Parents: Jonathan and Lorissa Nelson
College: Brigham Young University
Major: Physiology and developmental biology
Career plans: Pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon



Most influential teacher: Allyson Apey
Achievements:
 ■ National Honor Society
 ■ National Technical Honor Society president
 ■ Varsity cheerleading captain
 ■ Symphonic band first chair flute and piccolo
 ■ HOSA finalist
 ■ Key Club
 ■ Student council
 ■ Student leadership team
 ■ National Cherry Festival volunteer
 ■ Brigham Young Scholarship recipient
 ■ Honor roll (four years)
 ■ Academic and band letters (four years)
 ■ Varsity letters (four years)
 ■ All-Conference All-Academic Award
 ■ Young Champions National Cheerleading Competition (fifth place)
Sponsored by: Strategic Staffing Solutions

WORLD STUDIES

ANGELICE FLOYD

Lewis Cass Technical High School, Detroit
Grade-point average: 3.98
Parents: Sharon and Lester Floyd
College: University of Michigan
Major: World studies - international economics
Career plans: International human rights law
Achievements:
 ■ Principal's Scholastic Achievement Award



(2009-12)
 ■ Voice of Democracy Certificate of Merit - Outstanding Spokesperson Award - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Its Ladies Auxiliary (2010)
 ■ Outstanding scholastic excellence, community service and display of leadership potential, Michigan Youth Leadership Program (2010)
 ■ Outstanding service for the communities of Quilessabougou, Republic of Mali, in Africa
 ■ Service champion for Build On (2011)
 ■ Character recognition - most dedicated - Kales Preparatory Institute and Wayne State University
 ■ Certificate of recognition of academic excellence, extracurricular involvement and leadership potential - Lead America National
 ■ Student Leadership Conference (June 2009)
 ■ Helped raise money and organized speaking engagements for the Invisible Children campaign
Sponsored by: Frank Haron Weiner PLC

ALEC RAMSAY-SMITH

Harrison High School, Farmington Hills
Grade-point average: 3.98
Parents: Dana Ramsay and Fred Smith
College: Undecided
Major: International relations/government
Career plans: Foreign service of United Nations official
Most influential teacher: Allyson Robinson
Achievements:
 ■ National Merit finalist
 ■ President of Harrison's Model United Nations Club
 ■ Link Crew leader
 ■ Elected senator at Michigan's Boys State
 ■ National Honor Society member
 ■ Saxophone player for symphony band and jazz band
 ■ AP scholar with honors
 ■ Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Award



■ Rainbow Award from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural, Multiracial Community Council
 ■ Acted in every Harrison musical and One Act Play Festival (2008-12)
 ■ Attended Destination Imagination global finals
 ■ Finalist for James V. Ellis Scholarship
 ■ Opinion columnist for the Harrison Catalyst student newspaper
Sponsored by: Wright & Filippis

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